

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                   1.       A method for processing a user inquiry, the method comprising:  
2                   receiving a user inquiry;  
3                   sending a first request for user information to a first database;  
4                   providing the user information from the first database;  
5                   selecting a first agent, the first agent having a desirable set of skills and being  
6           available;  
7                   sending the user information to the selected first agent with a first web  
8           browser; and  
9                   sending the user inquiry to the selected first agent in response to a first signal  
10           indicative of a first consent from the selected first agent within a predetermined period of  
11           time.
- 1                   2.       The method of claim 1 wherein the selecting a first agent comprises:  
2                   detecting an amount of information traffic to an agent location; and  
3                   if the detected amount of information traffic reaches or exceeds a  
4           predetermined traffic level, avoiding choosing any agent from the agent location as the first  
5           agent.
- 1                   3.       The method of claim 1, and further comprising:  
2                   processing the user information with the first web browser by the selected first  
3           agent.
- 1                   4.       The method of claim 1, and further comprising:  
2                   in response to a lack of the first signal indicative of the first consent within the  
3           predetermined period of time,  
4                   selecting a second agent, the second agent having the desirable set of skills  
5           and being available; and  
6                   sending the user information to the selected second agent with a second  
7           web browser.
- 1                   5.       The method of claim 4, and further comprising:  
2                   setting a status of the selected first agent to “unavailable” in response to the  
3           first signal indicative of the first consent from the selected first agent within the  
4           predetermined period of time.

1                   6.       The method of claim 5 wherein the sending the user information to the  
2 selected first agent with a first web browser comprises retrieving the user information from  
3 the first database by a HTML page.

1                   7.       The method of claim 4 wherein the user inquiry is at least one selected  
2 from a group consisting of a user phone inquiry and a user message inquiry.

1                   8.       The method of claim 7 wherein the user message is initiated by a user.

1                   9.       The method of claim 7 wherein the user message is initiated by a  
2 contact center.

1                   10.      The method of claim 4, and further comprising:  
2                   in response to the lack of the first signal indicative of the first consent from the  
3 selected first agent within the predetermined period of time,  
4                   setting the status of the selected first agent to "break;" and  
5                   sending a first notification to the selected first agent, the first notification  
6                   indicative of selecting the second agent.

1                   11.      The method of claim 4, and further comprising:  
2                   in response to the first signal indicative of the first consent from the selected  
3 first agent within the predetermined period of time,  
4                   providing a first communication channel between a user and the selected  
5 first agent;  
6                   disconnecting the first communication channel between the user and the  
7 selected first agent; and  
8                   setting the status of the selected first agent to "available."

1                   12.      The method of claim 11 wherein the providing a first communication  
2 channel further comprises:  
3                   setting a status of a third agent to "unavailable;"  
4                   conducting a conference between at least two of the user, the selected first  
5 agent and the third agent; and  
6                   setting the status of the third agent to "available."

1                   13.     The method of claim 12 wherein the conducting a conference  
2 comprises:  
3                   providing a second communication channel between the selected first agent  
4                   and the third agent; and  
5                   wherein the second communication channel different from the first  
6                   communication channel.

1                   14.     The method of claim 13 wherein the first communication channel is a  
2 telephone channel, and the second communication channel is a message channel.

1                   15.     The method of claim 1 wherein the selecting a first agent comprises:  
2                   accessing a second database, the second database storing a plurality of sets of  
3 skills for a plurality of agents respectively.

1                   16.     A method for processing a user inquiry, the method comprising:  
2                   receiving user information from a first database, the user information  
3 associated with a request;  
4                   processing the user information with a web browser;  
5                   sending a first signal indicative of a first consent within a predetermined  
6 period of time in response to the user information; and  
7                   receiving a user inquiry in response to the first signal indicative of the first  
8 consent.

1                   17.     The method of claim 16 wherein the receiving user information from a  
2 first database comprises retrieving the user information from the first database by a HTML  
3 page.

1                   18.     The method of claim 16 wherein the user inquiry is at least one  
2 selected from a group consisting of a user phone inquiry and a user message inquiry.

1                   19.     The method of claim 18 wherein the user message is initiated by a  
2 user.

1                   20.     The method of claim 18 wherein the user message is initiated by a  
2 contact center.

1           21.     The method of claim 16, and further comprising:  
2           communicating with a user over a first communication channel; and  
3           sending information associated with the communicating with the user to the  
4     first database.

1           22.     The method of claim 21, and further comprising:  
2           communicating with another agent over a second communication channel.

1           23.     The method of claim 22 wherein the second communication channel is  
2     different from the first communication channel.

1           24.     The method of claim 23 wherein the first communication channel is a  
2     telephone channel, and the second communication channel is a message channel.

1           25.     A system for processing a user inquiry, the system comprising:  
2           a user interface system to receive a user inquiry and to request user  
3     information associated with the user inquiry;  
4           a first database to store and provide information associated with at least the  
5     user inquiry;  
6           a second database to store information relating to a plurality of agents, the  
7     information relating to the plurality of agents including a plurality of sets of skills  
8     corresponding to the plurality of agents respectively;  
9           an agent allocation system to identify a first agent having a desirable set of  
10    skills and being available based on at least the information relating to the plurality of agents;  
11    and  
12           an agent interface system for the first agent configured to  
13           receive the user information with a web browser; and  
14           send a first signal indicative of a first consent from the first agent in  
15    response to at least the user information.

1           26.     The system of claim 25 wherein the user interface system and the agent  
2     interface system provide a communication channel between a user and the first agent in  
3     response to the first signal indicative of the first consent from the first agent.

1                    27.     The system of claim 26 wherein the agent interface system sends  
2 inquiry information relating to a communication between the user and the first agent over the  
3 communication channel.

1                    28.     The system of claim 27 wherein the first database provides the inquiry  
2 information to the agent interface system.

1                    29.     The system of claim 25 wherein the user inquiry is at least one selected  
2 from a group consisting of a user phone inquiry and a user message inquiry.

1                    30.     The system of claim 29 wherein the user message is initiated by a user.

1                    31.     The system of claim 29 wherein the user message is initiated by the  
2 user interface system.